Each August, the Graduate School hosts a workshop for all new graduate teaching assistants (GTAs). The program is mandatory for all new GTAs, both U.S. and international.

At the Workshop for New GTAs, faculty and staff recognized for their superior teaching provide formal presentations on topics such as syllabus and course preparation, teaching with technology, leading group discussions, leading lab sessions, and important policies and legal issues for GTAs and professors alike.

 Experienced GTAs recognized for superior teaching in their respective colleges lead the second day of sessions at the workshop. These “Graduate Teaching Fellows” videotape new GTAs who have each prepared a short presentation. Each GTA receives both written and oral analyses of teaching strengths and areas for improvement. The new GTAs then have the opportunity to analyze videos that show some of the most frequently occurring problems in the classroom. The Fellows engage the new GTAs in discussing important University policies such as services for students with disabilities, harassment, academic misconduct, academic grievances, and the confidentiality of student records.

All GTAs who are non-native speakers of English must also successfully complete the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP), conducted by the University’s English Language Institute, before they will be allowed to teach.